

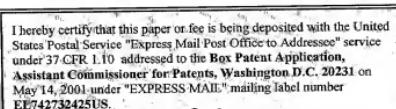
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of: Toshihisa YOKOYAMA, Ken-ichi NODA, Katsuhiro IMAI and
Minoru IMAEDA

Filed: Concurrently Herewith

For: PROCESS AND APPARATUS FOR PRODUCING AN OXIDE SINGLE
CRYSTAL

Box Patent Application
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington DC 20231



PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to examination, Applicants wish to amend the subject application as follows:

In the Claims:

Please rewrite claims 3, 4, 6, 12, 13, 15 and 19.

3. (Amended) A process for producing an oxide single crystal according to claim 1,
wherein said oxide single crystal is cooled by blowing a cooling medium thereto.

4. (Amended) A process for producing an oxide single crystal according to claim 1,
wherein said oxide single crystal is drawn from an opening of a nozzle portion provided at a
tip of said crucible.

6. (Amended) A process for producing an oxide single crystal according to claim 1, wherein said oxide single crystal is of a planar form.

12. (Amended) An apparatus for producing an oxide single crystal according to claim 10, wherein the cooler has a blowing hole for blowing out the cooling medium toward said oxide single crystal.

13. (Amended) An apparatus for producing an oxide single crystal according to claim 10, wherein said crucible has a nozzle portion and said opening is provided at a tip of said nozzle portion.

15. (Amended) An apparatus for producing an oxide single crystal according to claim 10, which further comprises an after-heater, the after-heater being adapted under said cooler for controlling an ambient temperature of said oxide single crystal.

19. (Amended) An apparatus for producing an oxide single crystal according to claim 10, wherein said oxide single crystal is a planar form.

REMARKS

Claims 1-26 are pending herein. Applicants have amended the claims to eliminate multiply dependent claims. Pursuant to Rule 121(b)(1)(iii), applicants also enclose a marked up version of amended claims showing the changes thereto. No new matter has been added. Applicants believe the case is now in condition for examination.

If the Examiner believes that contact with applicants' attorney would be advantageous toward the disposition of this case, he is herein requested to call applicants' attorney at the phone number noted below.

Respectfully submitted,

May 14, 2001

Date


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Please rewrite the following claims as follows:

3. (Amended) A process for producing an oxide single crystal according to ~~claims~~claim 1-~~or~~-2, wherein said oxide single crystal is cooled by blowing a cooling medium thereto.

4. (Amended) A process for producing an oxide single crystal according to ~~any one of~~claims 1-~~or~~-2, wherein said oxide single crystal is drawn from an opening of a nozzle portion provided at a tip of said crucible.

6. (Amended) A process for producing an oxide single crystal according to ~~claims~~claim 1-~~or~~-2, wherein said oxide single crystal is of a planar form.

12. (Amended) An apparatus for producing an oxide single crystal according to ~~claims~~claim 10-~~or~~-11, wherein the cooler has a blowing hole for blowing out the cooling medium toward said oxide single crystal.

13. (Amended) An apparatus for producing an oxide single crystal according to ~~claims~~claim 10-~~or~~-11, wherein said crucible has a nozzle portion and said opening is provided at a tip of said nozzle portion.

15. (Amended) An apparatus for producing an oxide single crystal according to ~~claims~~claim 10-~~or~~-11, which further comprises an

after-heater, the after-heater being adapted under said cooler for controlling an ambient temperature of said oxide single crystal.

19. (Amended) An apparatus for producing an oxide single crystal according to ~~claims~~claim 10-~~or~~-14, wherein said oxide single crystal is a planar form.